

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Identification information input apparatus for inputting identification information, comprising:

5 a dial unit for inputting arbitrary alphanumeric characters via rotating operation and generating an electric signal, wherein the alphanumeric characters is assigned in proportion to rotation angle of the dial unit via rotating operation, and wherein the dial unit gives the user a click
10 feel per unit rotation;

a confirmation unit for confirming alphanumeric characters input via the dial unit;

a conversion unit for converting the electric signal generated by the dial unit to the alphanumeric characters; and

15 an authentication unit for authenticating the converted alphanumeric characters by checking whether the alphanumeric characters converted by the conversion unit matches alphanumeric characters forming the identification information.

20 2. Identification information input apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the conversion unit includes a conversion table for specifying a procedure for converting an electric signal
25 generated by the dial unit to corresponding alphanumeric

characters, and performs conversion in accordance with the procedure written in the conversion table.

3. Identification information input apparatus
5 according to claim 1,

wherein the confirmation unit confirms alphanumeric characters input via the dial unit by rotating the dial unit in reversed direction.

10 4. Identification information input apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the confirmation unit confirms alphanumeric characters input via the dial when the rotation direction of the dial unit is reversed and alternately changes the rotation
15 direction of the dial unit and sequentially inputs each digit of the identification information.

5. Identification information input apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an input cancellation
20 unit for canceling input operation while inputting the digits of the identification information.

6. Identification information input apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit for
25 displaying the level of the user and performs display

corresponding to the user level according to the input password.